Poor Maintenance of Rajkot-Ahmedabad National Highway

181. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to poor maintenance, Rajkot-Ahmedabad straight line National Highway have taken thousand lives during the last year as reported in the Times of India (A'bad edition) dated 17th December, 1998;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government thereon;

(c) whether patrolling on the highway has been increased and also converstion of the single lane into four lane work in progress;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what other measure taken by Government to prevent such accidents on the National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEVENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No Sir, factors contributing for the fatal accidents are other than poor maintenance.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to widen the entire Rajkot-Ahmedabad Road forming parts of NH-8A & B into four lane carriageway in a phased manner inter-alia keeping in view the availability of funds etc. About 52 kms length already stands widened to four lane while the four laning work is in progress in a length of about 130 kms. Patrolling of NH is done by State Police Department. However, Central Govt. supports the activities.

(e) Measures taken to prevent accident on Natinoal Highways include installation of informatory/cautionary sign boards, lane marking provision of properly designed islands and junction, rigid enforcement of traffic rules, removal of liquor shops and establishment of traffic Check Posts.